



# The Voice

## Thanks for 30 Years of Volunteering

By: Judge David W. Soukup

Retired Judge, Principal of Soukup Arbitration and CASA Founder

Over 30 years ago, while sitting as a judge in juvenile court, I realized that there was no one in the court room whose only job was to provide a voice for those children.

Caseworkers have obligations to their agency, the parent and others.

Lawyers cannot investigate the facts *and* advocate for the mental health and social needs of the child.

Our court was a court of general jurisdiction, so when I was not sitting at juvenile court I was trying civil cases, often involving large amounts of money or important legal issues. I would do the best job I could in deciding those cases and leave them at the courthouse when I went home. I wouldn't wake up at 4 a.m. worrying about my decision. While sitting at juvenile court, I never got a night's sleep without waking to wonder if at least one decision I made that day had been the best for a child. It struck me that it might be possible to recruit and train volunteers to investigate a child's case so they could provide a voice for the child in those proceedings, proceedings which could affect their whole lives. I had my bailiff call four or five people in the community who might be resources in recruiting volunteers to ask if they would meet for a brown bag lunch at juvenile court to discuss the idea. There were 50 people in the

room when I walked in for that lunch. I thought, "This idea is going to work." It has. Tens of thousands of people like you, speaking up for hundreds of thousands of children, have proven that it does.

At one early meeting to discuss starting CASA, I was asked if I wasn't worried that volunteers would become emotionally involved with the children. I answered that if they didn't, we had the wrong volunteers. But for a long time I wondered who you marvelous people are who give so much of yourselves to children.

Mercedes Lawry [former communications director at National CASA] then wrote her moving poem, "The Advocate," explaining what this is all about. After I retired from the Superior Court bench, I became a volunteer in our program. It was an extraordinary experience. Both the hardest—and the best—thing I've ever done. But I realized that, although I had slept better as a judge knowing that CASA volunteers were speaking up for the children who needed their voices, the volunteers were now up at 4 a.m. worrying about those kids. You are to be commended for your extraordinary commitment to children and for your sleepless nights.

When Aaron Ruben, a dear friend and CASA volunteer in Los Angeles, received accolades for his

work he would say, "I really get uncomfortable with too much praise. When people say 'Bless you for the work you're doing,' I say, 'Don't bless me. Get involved yourself or write CASA a check.'" Keep passing that word on for another 30 years.

The first CASA program was founded by Judge David Soukup in Seattle, Washington in 1977. Today, a network of more than 940 program offices serves children in 49 states.

In 2006, more than 57,000 CASA and GAL volunteers served as a consistent, caring adult in the lives of 220,129 children in the dependency system.



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### **The Advocate**

*This is not about  
Rescue, so as to feel good  
When the child lights up with a  
smile.  
This is not about  
the comfort of compassion.  
This is hard work,  
Struggling with ripped families  
And children in clouds of pain,  
anger dancing round in their hearts*

*in the turmoil of a world  
made crazy. This is caring,  
yes, but also what is just,  
what should be demanded.  
It takes love  
And a certain measure of courage.  
And in the simple act  
Of person helping person,  
It becomes extraordinary.  
—Mercedes Lawry*



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### **"We Pray for Children"** *by Ina Hughes*

We pray for children  
Who put chocolate fingers everywhere,  
Who like to be tickled,  
Who stomp in puddles and ruin their new  
pants,  
Who sneak Popsicles before supper,  
Who erase holes in math workbooks,  
Who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those  
Who stare at photographers from behind  
barbed wire,  
Who can't bound down the street in new  
sneakers,  
Who never "counted potatoes,"  
Who are born in places we wouldn't be  
caught dead in,  
Who never go to the circus,  
Who live in an X-rated world.

We pray for children  
Who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of  
dandelions,  
Who sleep with the cat and bury goldfish,  
Who hug us in a hurry and forget their  
lunch money,  
Who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink,  
Who slurp their soup.

And we pray for those  
Who never get dessert,  
Who have no safe blanket to drag behind  
them,

Who can't find any bread to steal,  
Who don't have any rooms to clean up,  
Whose pictures aren't on anybody's  
dresser,  
Whose monsters are real.

We pray for children  
Who spend all their allowance before  
Tuesday,  
Who throw tantrums in the grocery store  
and pick at their food,  
Who like ghost stories,  
Who shove dirty clothes under the bed,  
Who get visits from the tooth fairy,  
Who don't like to be kissed in front of the  
car pool,  
Who squirm in church and scream on the  
phone,  
Whose tears we sometimes laugh at and  
whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those  
Whose nightmares come in the daytime,  
Who will eat anything,  
Who have never seen a dentist,  
Who are never spoiled by anyone,  
Who go to bed hungry and cry themselves  
to sleep,  
Who live and move, but have no being.

We pray for children  
Who want to be carried  
And for those who must,  
For those we never give up on  
And for those who never get a second  
chance,  
For those we smother.  
And for those who will grab the hand of

anybody kind enough to offer it.

We pray for children. Amen.

#### **In Indiana:**

Volunteers spoke up for 19,949 abused  
and neglected children in 2007.

Volunteers donated a total of 508,973  
hours.

#### **In Tippecanoe County:**

126 volunteers donated 31,380 hours in  
2007.



# What's New and Not so New.....

.....Coleen Hamrick, Director

Wow, it seems like a long time since we have sent out a newsletter...wait...it has been a long time! Times flies when you are having fun supporting CASA volunteers as they do the most important work there is...advocating for kids...speaking of that ...thank you, thank you, thank you, for all you do for the children of Tippecanoe County. Our army of child advocates continues to grow stronger and our powerless children certainly do have a group of powerful friends...CASA Volunteers.

So here's some "stuff" that I would like to share with you:

**Changes in Staffing** are a sign of program growth and the constant need to assess and evaluate, in order to provide the best support for our volunteers. Cindy Barnett has just recently started in the position of Intake Coordinator. Her duties will include following cases from the time of detention through assignment to a volunteer. This will allow ongoing supervisor's more time to support their volunteers and concentrate on other projects. Deanna Setters has also joined our team as the new Office Manager. Deanna is a great fit for our office and has already acclimated herself to our warped sense of humor and crazy ways! See "meet our staff" section for the whole scoop on staff.

**Advocating** for abused and neglected children should not cause you any personal, financial burden. That is why we can offer mileage reimbursement for any CASA work that takes you outside of Tippecanoe County. Some CASAs prefer to put it on their taxes, but if you prefer to be reimbursed, please consider the following: The form is available on the county website:

[www.tippecanoe.in.gov](http://www.tippecanoe.in.gov)

Mileage reimbursements forms must be submitted within 30 days of travel. We work with a very tight budget and getting a form from several months back or from another calendar year makes it very hard to manage. Thanks for your cooperation with this... Please, also let your supervisor know when and where you will be traveling...we worry about-cha!

**Plans for the Juvenile Detention Center** continue to be discussed and we are gradually getting closer to the realization. I

hope that at the next public meeting that the plans can come to fruition. The need for our own center seems so clear to those of us who work with troubled youth on a regular basis. We need to keep our kids close to our community so that 1. their care can be monitored, 2. families (and CASAs) can be a part of their rehabilitation program and 3. our local money can be spent on local services that are provided by people who are hired locally and have an investment in our community. Below is a quick update from Rebecca Humphrey, Youth Services Director.

...We are moving along in planning for the Juvenile Justice Center. In a joint County Council and County Commissioners meeting there was a consensus reached that the priority components of the Juvenile Center consist of assessment and intake, secure detention, and alternative services space. That means that at this time, the courts and services connected to the courts (such as Juvenile Probation, Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office and CASA) are not planned for inclusion in the initial building phase of the center. The architects will still work on designing that space but will offer it as a second phase of the facility construction process. Steps are moving forward with due diligence for the N. 9th Street Property with a Phase II Environmental Study scheduled and anticipated to be complete by July. Once that study comes back positive and we have approval for rezoning the land, the purchase of the N. 9th Street Property will occur. The next public meeting to discuss the need for the facility and review operating and construction costs is scheduled for Wednesday, July 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Tippecanoe Room at the Tippecanoe County Office Building. I hope you can attend and will share your opinion and experiences regarding whether or not the need exists for a juvenile facility in Tippecanoe County.

Also, an update regarding Cary Home for Girls, the facility renovations and upgrades are complete - if you haven't seen it, come out for a tour - we are very proud of the work

we have done! The Girls Unit was inspected by the State on June 12th and no major non-compliances were noted, which sets us up for the next step of being inspected by the State Fire Inspector. Once that is complete (and successful), we anticipate having our license and being approved for placements very quickly. I will let you know as soon as the State Fire Inspection occurs and we nail down an opening date.

**Department of Child Services and Practice Reform**...Many of you have been involved in some way with the Practice Reform changes in Tippecanoe County, specifically Family Team Meetings. Because there have been so many questions, below you will find an explanation provided by Angela Smith Grossman, DCS Director, to help clarify the changes. CASAs may have questions in regards to changes and are always encouraged to call and speak with a supervisor.

Practice Reform is a process by which child welfare practice is being transformed in Indiana. There are multiple layers to Practice Reform, Teaming and Engaging being the first step. I believe this website will allow you to access the DCS information that outlines all the steps and initiatives. But for our purposes in this moment Teaming and Engaging is what I will focus on. <https://myshare.in.gov/fssa/icwis/CasePracticeReform/default.aspx>



Most of the Tippecanoe County staff have been trained on the model of Teaming and Engaging. The training we had gave the framework for this first step of the Practice Reform but was just the foundation of this section of the process. This training focused

on the family as the center of the gathering ( the family team meeting) and stressed the importance of having the parents themselves invite their supports and people that they felt would help them accomplish goals. It is the eventual desire that as the parents work through multiple family team meetings,

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# Forty Developmental Assets

By: Melissa Morrison

The 40 Developmental Assets, as defined by the Search Institute, are positive experiences or qualities that have the power to influence the choices young people make. These concrete and common sense attributes are essential to raising successful young people, in helping them to become caring, responsible adults. They are divided in to two categories: External Assets and Internal Assets.

External:

**Support**

**Empowerment**

**Boundaries and expectations**

**Constructive Use of Time**

Internal:

**Commitment to Learning**

**Positive Values**

**Social Competencies**

**Positive identity**



When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Everyone can build assets for a child. Visit [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org) to get ideas on how you can help the children you are advocating for.

## Speaking Up For A Child

We are so fortunate to have another group of dedicated individuals join our ranks.

Introducing the class of **Spring, 2008...**

Cindy Abel	Dennis Davidson	Kevin Koors	Beth Moore
Thomas Brennan	Nancy Gehring	Jay McCann	Kelly Morehouse
Monica Christopher	Kasia Karcz	Kent McQueary	Jenny Primm

**And Fall, 2007.....**

Catherine Bowman	Natalie Hanas	Amanda James	Mary Ann Mitchell
Julie Collins	Stanley Harlow	Gary Longest	Heather Sweet
Maria Davis	Michael Hoch	Kristy Miller	Lori Walters
Laurie Graham			Linda Houtz



## Happy Birthday!!

<b>July:</b>	Kimberly Walsh	Laurie Graham	<b>September:</b>	Larry Parmeter
Sue Goecker	<b>August:</b>	Judith Hansell	Dennis Davidson	Margaret Rogler
Gerald Gruen	Cindy Abel	Stanley Harlow	Teena Flook	Sally Simmons
Linda Houtz	Jodi Allen	Valeska Hilbun	Nancy Giddens	Heather Sweet
Colleen Neal	Kari Clase	Gary Longest	Vivian Leuck	
Deanna Setters	Sharon Cornell	Ann Mitchell	Julie Lidester	
Jo Sullivan	Kimberly Gascho	Jane Stewart	Jay McCann	



**If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.**

John Quincy Adams



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that their table of supports will look less like our old "treatment team" and more like the people likely to be in their life and the child's after all of us get out of their case and life.

While the Family Team Meetings have a model to follow, the subject and makeup can be dictated by the team that is present. While Family Team meetings imply the family is the focus, Teaming and Engaging itself is a core process of social work and

should occur among all of us working on behalf of the child. I believe it is the ultimate goal of DCS Practice Reform and certainly in the direction I want staff to proceed, that these principles integrate into all areas of their work. I hope to see that Teaming and Engaging is not an event called a Family Team Meeting but rather the core value Family Case Managers carry into ALL of their work with people. It is my desire that Teaming and Engaging will promote the family being involved in their own assessment not just of problems but also their strengths and resources.



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## Meet the Staff

**Deanna Setters**

I'm the new office manager of your CASA office. Although originally from Parke County, I've lived in Tippecanoe for the last 19 years. My husband Dave and I have two beautiful children. Cara is a food science major at Purdue University. Eli will be making the big move to middle school next year. The newest addition to the family is our English Bulldog, Hope. As she is still in the "puppy" stage, most of the time it is more like "No, Hope."

I am extremely excited to be part of such a worthwhile organization and great group of people. I look forward to meeting all of you. I hope I can be



of assistance to you as you so selflessly serve our community's children.

**Cindy Barnett**

I am so excited to be working in a new position! As Intake Case Coordinator I am responsible for most of the cases that do not have CASA volunteers assigned; right now that is 34 cases with a total of 53 children. I attend the Emergency Detentions and Initial Hearings, Mediated Case Conferences, Family Team Meetings and Fact Findings – all of the events that take place at the very beginning of the cases. A lot of what I do is gather information to provide good background for the CASAs and Supervisors when the cases are assigned. I am also responsible for maintaining our National CASA data base (COMET) which not only helps us track

cases but also provides us with our stats.

As part of background search on parents (and significant others) I have begun to do Indiana State Police Limited Criminal History checks – which provides history for the whole state, including Tippecanoe County - and BMV Record Searches – which provides "Indiana Official Driver Record." This record shows a person's current license status (suspended, valid, unlicensed) and history of suspensions.

Thanks to all CASAs who have taken new cases; I don't mind at all letting go of them! And especially thanks to all who are so supportive and encouraging. You all are great!!!

Please email news for our newsletter to Deanna at [dsetters@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:dsetters@tippecanoe.in.gov)

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**Congratulations** to Cindy Barnett on her new position as Intake Coordinator.

**Welcome** to Deanna Setters on joining the staff as Office Manager along with Maria Davis as Clerical Support.

**Special Thanks** to Devin Hamrick for our closed file clean up. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

**Condolences** to Vivian Leuck on the loss of her Father.

**Best wishes for speedy recoveries** to Larry Larrabee's wife after her two eye surgeries as well as to Don Rees and Harold Amstutz after their multiple surgeries.

**Congratulations** to Kavita Deckard on her new baby girl.

**Congratulations** to Pam Grenard and Lynn Richardson on their new grandchildren (Lynn got two!)

**Congratulations** to Mary Hood for the marriage of her first grandchild, who just received his MD degree from St. Louis University, a granddaughter graduating from Ball State, another from high school in New York **and** a grandson from DePauw.



County

Courthouse, 301 Main St.  
Lafayette, IN 47901

Phone: 765-423-9109  
Fax: 765-423-9710

*Powerless children, need  
powerful friends*

## Calendar of Events



### ***“YouthLink”***

Presented by Nate Hawkins

Monday, July 14th, 12 noon - 1:15 PM  
5th Floor, CASA Conference Room

### ***“Area IV”***

Presented by Adreienne Glatz

Tuesday August 5th, 12 noon - 1:15 PM  
5th Floor, CASA Conference Room

### ***“Wabash Valley School and Home Based Case Management”***

Coming in September - Date and time  
TBA.

### ***“SAFTIP and Polographs”***

Presented by Lisa Coston

Coming in October - Date and time TBA.



### **CASAs (and their Family) Picnic**

Sunday, July 27th, 4 - 7 PM

Columbian Park. This will be a good ol' fashion celebration...time to network with other CASAs and meet their special families that support them in their work.

### ***“Church Women United Ice Cream Social to honor CASA”***

Sunday, July 13th at 1:30 PM

Unitarian Church, 333 Meridian  
Street, West Lafayette

You are invited to join in this celebration...spread the word, bring a friend



### **Training Opportunity:**

#### ***“ Technology 101: Uses and Abuses that Every Advocate Needs to Know”***

Presented by Caryn Burton, M.S.

Part of the YWCA Domestic Violence  
Intervention and Prevention Program  
lunchtime training.

Thursday, July 24th, 11:30 - 1:00

Box lunch is served. Cost \$15 per person. Call 742-0075 to register